

**Draft
Environmental Assessment
EXHIBITS**

**Lewis & Clark Heritage Greenway
Conservation Easement Amendment
Giant Springs State Park**

September 28, 2004



EXHIBIT A

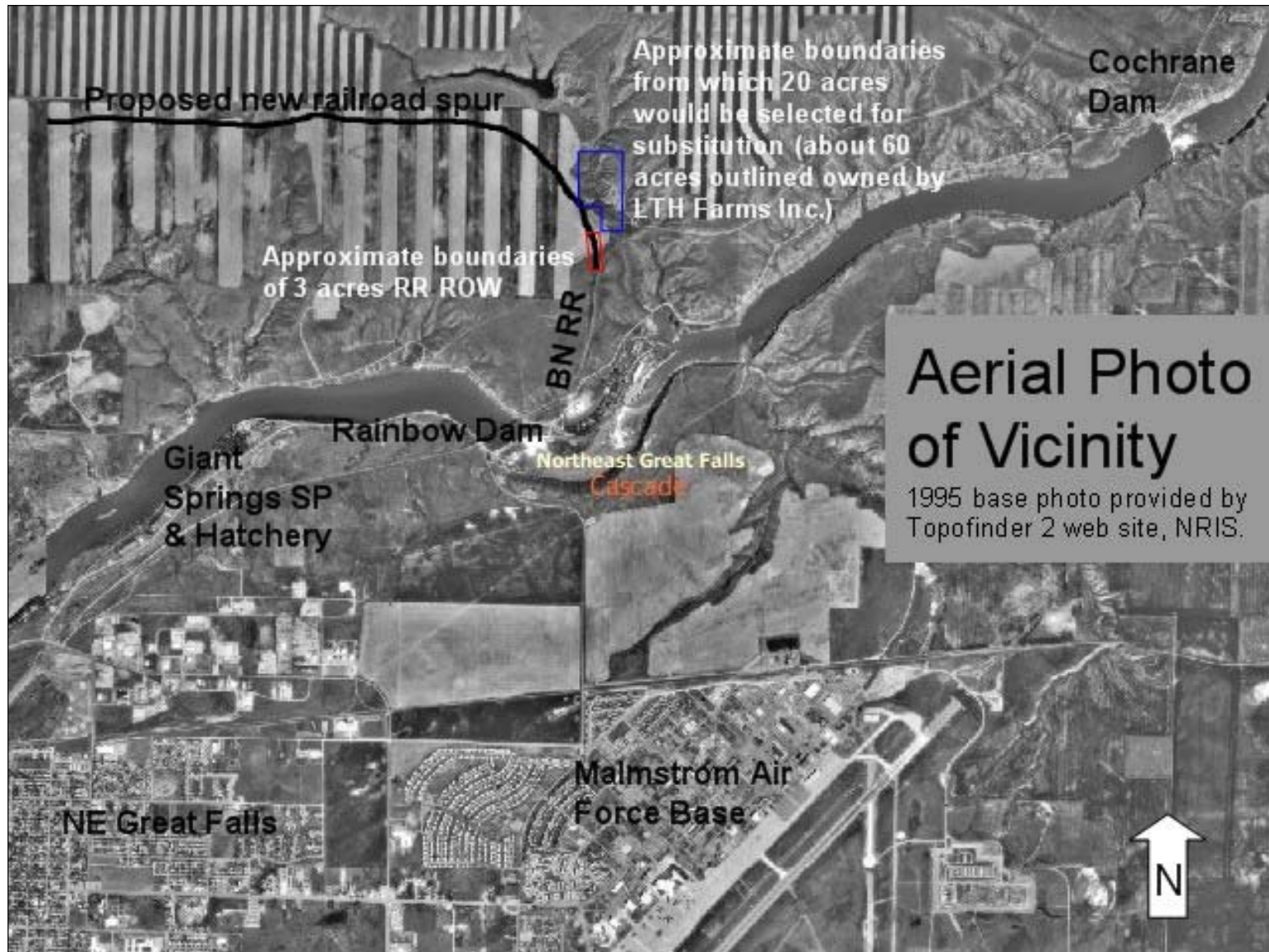


EXHIBIT B

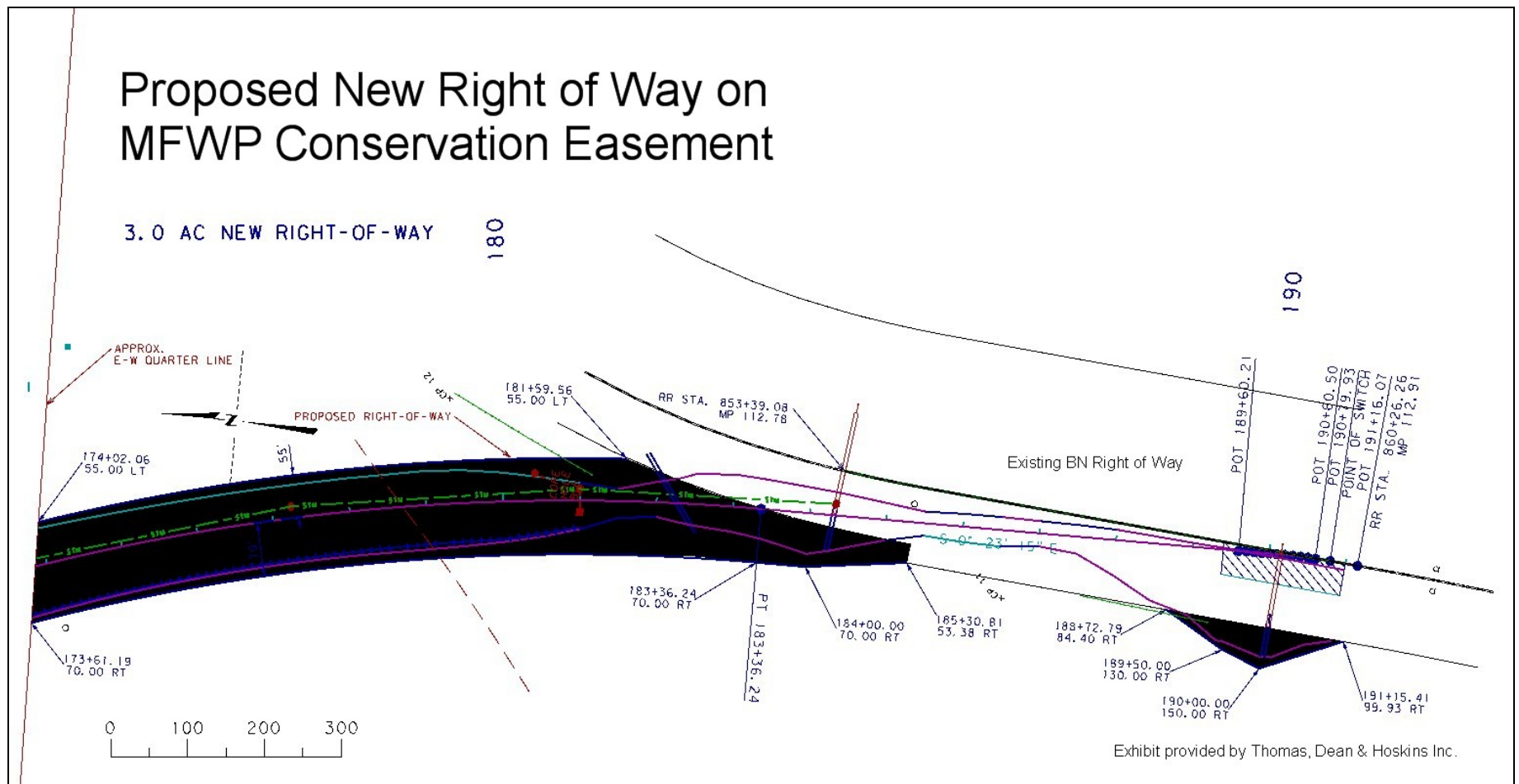
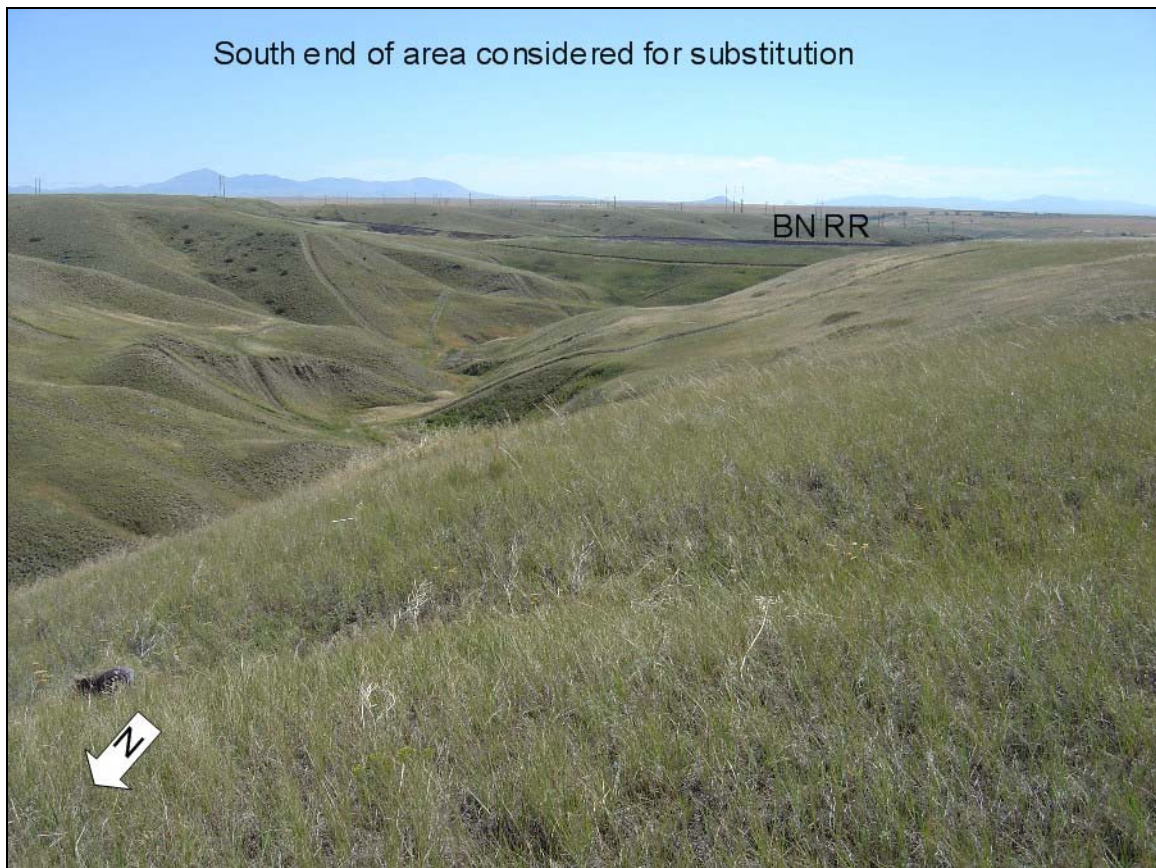
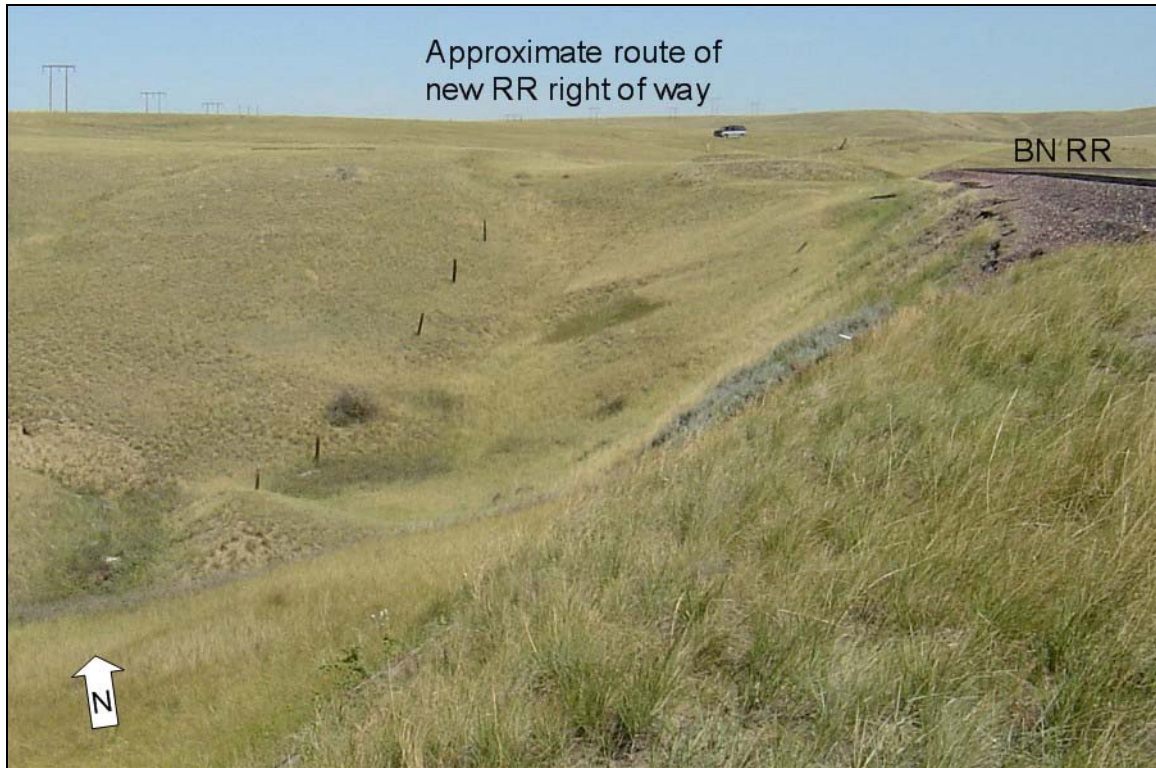


EXHIBIT C
PHOTOS OF SUBJECT TRACTS





All photos by Sue Dalbey; 09/08/04.

EXHIBIT D
23-1-110 MCA
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: October 13, 2004

Person Reviewing: Sue Dalbey, consultant
Dalbey Resources

Project Location: The subject tracts are located about three miles northeast of Great Falls, Cascade County in Township 21 North, Range 4 East PMM, Section 27.

Description of Proposed Work: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to accept an additional 20 acres of land to be included in the adjoining Great Falls Heritage Greenway Conservation Easement in exchange for allowing construction and use of a railroad right of way across three to five acres of the existing easement by the Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA).

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check ☒ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- ☒ A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments: *About 1100 feet of new railroad will be constructed on undisturbed open grassland.*
- ☐ B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments: *None*
- ☒ C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments: *Cut and fill of more than 20 c.y. will be required to intersect the existing railroad and meet grade requirements.*
- ☐ D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments: *None*
- ☐ E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments: *None*
- ☐ F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: *None*

- [] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments: *A cultural survey was completed by Gar C. Wood and Associates (report dated July 6, 2004), which concluded that construction of the planned railroad spur would cause no adverse effect upon any cultural site. This conclusion was supported by the City of Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Office. (Value Added Commodity Processing Park Environmental Assessment, GFDA, August 2004). FWP is consulting with SHPO and will reach agreement on the project impacts, and mitigation if necessary, prior to completing the proposed action.*
- [] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments: *None*
- [] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments: *None.*
- [✓] J. Proposed project changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments: *Existing use allows open space and non-motorized use of natural areas; construction of new railroad spur will eliminate this use on about 3 acres, but increase pedestrian access on 20 acres.*

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

EXHIBIT E
TOURISM REPORT - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (23-1-110 MCA)

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by 23-1-110 MCA and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce
PO Box 200533
301 South Park
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name: Lewis & Clark Heritage Greenway Conservation Easement Amendment

Project Description: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to accept 20 acres of land to be included in the adjoining Great Falls Heritage Greenway Conservation Easement in exchange for allowing construction and use of a railroad right of way across approximately three acres of the existing easement by the Great Falls Development Authority.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?

(circle one) NO

☒ YES

If YES, briefly describe:

As described, the proposed land swap as mitigation for the Railroad Right of way adds to the Greenway's recreation, habitat and open space resources. It appears to provide a number of positives while offsetting the ^{relatively} small impact the Rail spine line will cause in the area.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

(circle one) NO

☒ YES

If YES, briefly describe:

From the project description and impact assessment it does not appear that the rail line will take away any resources currently used for recreation & tourism while the land swap adds many more acres to be protected as open space, wildlife habitat and recreational/tourism opportunities.

Signature

Victor Bjornberg

Date

9-24-09